

habiting South Africa and Spain—the “*Tchagra*” of Le Vaillant,—but that they should be considered local races; and he goes on to say that a specimen from Senegal in the Bremen collection which he was inclined to consider the female of *T. erythropterus*, differs in its smaller dimensions, lighter colour and thinner bill, and in the brown colour of the forehead.

What is a species, and what a local race I leave to Prof. Schlegel to determine; but can the Bremen bird be, as it seems to me, a true “*Tchagra*” from Senegal? If so, the two races or species are mingled together there, and the assertion that it is a local race cannot be maintained.

The Spanish bird, from what I can gather from Dr. Bree (B. Eur. i. pp. 171, 172) appears to be the true *T. erythropterus* (L.), not the “*Tchagra*” of Le Vaillant.

Le Vaillant’s “*Tchagra*” is common enough in the places described by him, and is the only one to be met with in the parts of the country visited by him. I hope to be able to ascertain how far it extends to the eastward before it gives place to the black-headed species; but I have already received it from a more easterly point than LeVaillant ever reached. I have sent my Natal correspondent the true “*Tchagra*,” and have requested him to look closely into the subject, to see if he can find it there. I find *T. senegalus*, with a reference to Le Vaillant’s plate, included in the list of birds procured by Andersson in Damaraland (Contr. Orn. 1852, p. 145), but I do not recollect seeing it among such of his specimens as passed through my hands.

XXXV.—*List of Birds obtained in the Irawadi valley around Ava, Thayet Myo, and Bassein.* By W. T. BLANFORD, C.M.Z.S.

THE following is a list of birds obtained by me in the years 1861 and 1862, partly during a visit to Mandélé, the modern capital of Ava, but chiefly either around Thayet Myo, in Upper Pegu, or in the Bassein district, in Lower Pegu. I was principally induced to collect by the accident of meeting Dr. Jerdon at Thayet Myo; but at that time, before his invaluable ‘Birds of India’ was published, the determination of species

in the field was almost impossible, and even in the large towns of India, except Calcutta, no collections and but few books were available for comparison*. A portion of my collection was given to the Asiatic Society's (now the Indian) Museum in Calcutta; the remainder I took to England in 1862, and the species were named for me by the kindness of Mr. P. L. Selater, who wished me to supply such notes as I could add on the habits and distribution of the birds, for publication in 'The Ibis.' Various occupations prevented my doing this at the moment; my stay in Europe was extremely short; and on my return to India the list was mislaid or overlooked, until I had, to a great extent, forgotten the matter.

Recently I came upon the list; and so little has been added since 1862 to our knowledge of the ornithology of Pegu and Independent Burma, that I am induced to believe that the few notes I can give will be of as much interest now as formerly. I add the names of the species presented to the Indian Museum from Mr. Blyth's lists (Jour. As. Soc. Beng. 1863, xxxii. p. 74). The majority of the specimens have long since been dispersed; there are some, however, in the Museum at Calcutta, to which I have access.

It should not be forgotten that the birds here enumerated belong to two very distinct subfaunas. The animals of Lower Pegu are mostly identical with species of the South-east Himalayas, Arakan, and Tenasserim, and form a link in the great Malay fauna. The forms inhabiting the dry country of Upper Burma and, generally speaking, of the Irawadi valley above Prome, are in many instances more closely allied to Indian (non-Malay) forms, and have not unfrequently African rather than Malay affinities. Examples are to be found in such species as *Oxylophus jacobinus*, *Francolinus phayrii*, *Chatorhea gularis*, and *Pericrocotus albifrons*, none of which appear to occur or to be represented by allied forms in Lower Pegu, Arakan, and Tenasserim.

* Even at the present day, except in Madras and, I believe, in Agra, there is nothing worthy of the name of a local ornithological collection. In Bombay any thing like a museum is disgracefully "conspicuous by its absence."

1. *Hierax eutolmus*, Hodg.—One specimen shot on the hills east of Ava; others were obtained on the hills of the Bassein district of Pegu. They were always seen perched conspicuously on leafless branches; and the Burmese told me they fed on beetles.

2. *Palæornis*, sp.—?—This is the bird to which Dr. Jerdon refers under the head of *P. javanicus* (B. Ind. i. pp. 263, 264); and, like him, I also saw large flocks near Thayet Myo, both when in his company and subsequently. As late as November at all events I saw no specimen with a red breast, although I shot several and saw others caged.

3. *Picus blanfordi*, Blyth, J.A.S.B. xxxii. p. 75.—This is little more than a variety of *P. mahrattensis*, with the white spots rather better developed. Common at Thayet Myo. I also obtained specimens near Ava. It is probably peculiar to the drier parts of Burmah, and I did not meet with it in Lower Pegu.

4. *Hemicercus canente* (Less.)—Bassein, not common.

5. *Chrysocolaptes sultaneus* (Hodgs.).—Pegu: Bassein district.

6. *Hemilophus feddeni* (Blyth, J. A. S. B. 1863, xxxii. p. 75).—Bassein and Thayet Myo; not very common. Named after Mr. F. Fedden, of the Geological Survey, who obtained the first specimen I saw. The species is distinguished from *H. hodgsoni* of Malabar by the much larger quantity of white on the inner webs of the quills, which in *H. feddeni* extends for half their length on all the quills. The dimensions of the type specimen in the Calcutta Museum are:—wing 3·75, tail 6·5, bill nearly 2 inches. I cannot find a specimen of *H. hodgsoni* for comparison.

7. *Hemilophus pulverulentus* (Temm.).—I met with this large Woodpecker only once, on the hills (known as the Shan Hills) east of the Irawadi, near Mandélé and Ava. I came upon a small flock of five or six, which were excessively noisy and rather wary, keeping to high trees. By good fortune I procured one specimen, now in the Calcutta Museum. The wing measures 9·5, tail 6·5 in.

8. *Gecinus striolatus* (Blyth).—Pegu: Irawadi delta.

9. *Gecinus viridanus* (Blyth).—Pegu: also found in Upper Burma.

10. *Gecinus chlorolophus* (Vieill.).—Hills east of Ava.

11. *Micropterus phaeiceps*, Blyth.—Bassein.

12. *Chrysnotus intermedius* (Blyth).—Pegu. By far the commonest species of Woodpecker in the Bassein district. Found also at Thayet Myo.

13. *Megalama hodgsoni*, Bonap.—Bassein: Rangoon, common.

14. *Xantholama indicu* (Lath.).—Ava. This bird is rare in Burma compared with its abundance almost throughout the plains of India.

15. *Polyphasia tenuirostris* (J. E. Gray).—Pegu: Ava.

16. *Oxylophus jacobinus* (Bodd.).—Very abundant around Thayet Myo, as mentioned by Dr. Jerdon (B. Ind. i. p. 340). As it is a common African species, it is probably peculiar, on the eastern side of the Bay of Bengal, to the dry region of Upper Burma.

17. *Zanclostomus tristis* (Less.).—Bassein.

18. *Harpactes hodgsoni*, Gould.—Bassein, Pegu. Not seen in the dry region of Upper Burma. It keeps to rather thick woods.

19. *Merops viridis*, L.—Pegu; very common.

20. *Merops quinticolor*, Vieill.—Pegu and Ava; less common.

In March I saw large numbers of a *Merops* (probably *M. philippensis*) breeding near the banks of the Bassein river, one of the mouths of the Irawadi. The holes were not made in a bank, but on flat sandy ground; and had I not seen the birds going in and out, I should have taken them for rat-holes.

21. *Nyctiornis athertoni*, Jerd. & Selb.—Bassein.

22. *Coracias affinis*, M^cClell.—Pegu and Ava.

23. *Eurystomus orientalis* (L.).—Bassein, in Pegu.

24. *Halcyon amauropterus*, Pears.—Irawadi delta.

25. *Halcyon leucocephalus* (Gmel.).—Thayet Myo.

26. *Halcyon smyrnensis* (L.).—Pegu, inland; not observed in the delta.

27. *Halcyon atricapillus* (Lath.).—Irawadi delta; very common, but only seen as far as salt water extends up the rivers.

28. *Alcedo meninting*, Horsf.—Irawadi delta.

29. *Alcedo bengalensis*, Gmel.—Pegu, inland.

This species, *Halcyon leucocephalus* and *H. smyrnensis* are

apparently replaced in the Irawadi delta, where the water is salt, by *A. meningting*, *H. amauropterus*, and *H. atricapillus*.

30. *Ceryle rudis* (L.).—More common about Ava than in Pegu

31. *Buceros albirostris*, Shaw.—Pegu generally; but not seen in the Irawadi delta. I also obtained it near Ava.

32. *Buceros cavatus*, L.—I obtained a head at Ava, which had been brought from the neighbourhood.

33. *Buceros bicornis*, L.—Common in the Arakan hills—on the west side, at least,—and in the Irawadi delta. I did not meet with it in Upper Pegu; and it is so remarkable and conspicuous a bird that I could not easily have overlooked it. The sound of its wings, when flying, is audible at a great distance.

34. *Upupa longirostris*, Jerdon.—Pegu generally.

35. *Petrocincla saxatilis* (L.).—Upper Burma, on the banks of the Irawadi near Ava.

I am not aware that this bird has ever been recorded from the plains of India, although it was obtained by Dr. Stoliczka in Western Thibet. *P. castaneicollis*, Less., is identical, in Dr. Stoliczka's opinion (J. A. S. B. 1868, xxxvii. p. 34).

36. *Petrocincla cyanea* (L.).—Upper Burma.

37. *Copsychus macrurus* (Gmel.).—Hills, Bassein district, Pegu; not common.

38. *Pratincola indica*, Blyth.—Pegu.

39. *Pratincola leucura*, Blyth.—Banks of Irawadi, near Thayet Myo, and throughout Upper Burma. Common, and a constant resident. Another instance of a bird from the dry region of India recurring in Upper Burma.

40. *Oreicola jerdoni*, Blyth, Ibis, 1867, p. 14 (*Rhodophila melanoleuca*, Jerd.).—Obtained only once, in long elephant-grass, in the northern portion of the Bassein district, Pegu.

41. *Henicurus immaculatus*, Hodgs.—Arakan Hills.

42. *Dendrophila frontalis* (Horsf.).—Arakan Hills, Bassein; common.

43. *Chatorhea gularis*, Blyth.—Upper Burma. Found commonly about Thayet Myo, and still more abundantly in the dry country above the British frontier.

44. *Chatorhea earlii*, Blyth.—Banks of the Irawadi, in high elephant-grass at Thayet Myo, and also near Ava.

45. *Megalurus palustris*, Horsf.—Ava. The high elephant-grass, with the last species. A solitary bird. It has a far finer song than its allies of the *Timaliinae*; and I have noticed its peculiarity, mentioned by Mr. Blyth and Dr. Jerdon, of rising singing into the air, and hovering. In this respect, in its habitat, and in many of its habits, it singularly resembles its diminutive relative *Cisticola schænicola*.

46. *Garrulax belangeri* (Less.).—Bassein, Pegu.

47. *Garrulax moniliger* (Hodgs.).—Upper Burma, near Ava.

48. *Mixornis rubricapilla* (Tickell).—Arakan Hills, near Bassein.

49. *Oriolus melanocephalus*, L.—Ava, Thayet Myo, and Bassein.

50. *Oriolus tenuirostris*, Blyth.—Thayet Myo.

51. *Pycnonotus nigropileus*, Blyth.—Common everywhere from Ava downwards. Specimens from Lower Pegu are very probably referable to *P. hæmorrhous*.

52. *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*, Strickland.—Bassein.

53. *Pycnonotus blanfordi*, Jerdon, Ibis, 1862, pp. 19, 20; *P. familiaris*, Blyth.—Thayet Myo.

54. *Brachypodius melanocephalus* (Gmel.).—Bassein.

55. *Phyllornis aurifrons*, Temm.—Thayet Myo, and above Ava.

56. *Iora typhia* (L.).—Common throughout the Irawadi valley. I am unable to agree with Mr. A. Hume, who has lately expressed an opinion (J. A. S. B. 1870, xxxix. p. 117) that this form is identical with *I. zeylanica*. The females and males in non-breeding-plumage are undistinguishable; but in breeding-plumage the males differ widely, as I have satisfied myself within the last few days by dissecting a breeding-male of *I. typhia* which had the usual green back, head, and tail. Dr. Jerdon also mentions a difference in the colour of the iris.

57. *Nectarinia asiatica* (Lath.).—Thayet Myo: Yenankhyoung.

58. *Arachnothera affinis*, Blyth?—Arakan Hills, near Bassein.

59. *Dicaeum cruentatum* (L.).—Thayet Myo: Upper Burma.

60. *Dicaeum chrysorrhæum*, Temm.—Shot on the banks of the Irawadi, twenty miles above Ava.

61. *Dicaeum minimum* (Tickell).—As the last.
62. *Graucalus macæi*, Less.—Bassein.
63. *Volvocivora melanoptera*, Blyth.—Bassein district.
64. *Pericrocotus rutilus*, Gould.—Bassein district.
65. *Pericrocotus roseus* (Vieill.).—Bassein.
66. *Pericrocotus peregrinus* (L.).—Thayet Myo.
67. *Pericrocotus albifrons*, Jerdon, Ibis, 1862, p. 20.—Thayet Myo, and in Upper Burma at least as far as Pagan, where I obtained it. It is doubtless confined to the dry region of Burma, where it represents *P. erythropygus*, similarly confined to the drier parts of India.
68. *Edolius paradiseus* (L.).—Lower Pegu.
69. *Dicrurus longicaudatus*, A. Hay.—Bassein district.
70. *Dicrurus intermedius*, Blyth.—Arakan Hills, near Bassein.
71. *Tchitrea affinis* (A. Hay).—Arakan Hills, near Bassein.
72. *Myiagra azurea* (Bodd.).—Bassein.
73. *Leucocerca aureola* (Vieill.), var.—Thayet Myo. Mr. Blyth says this differs from Indian specimens in the white of the forehead and supercilia, as well as on the tail-feathers, being less in extent (J. A. S. B. 1863, xxxii. p. 79). Dr. Jerdon (B. Ind. i. p. 453) refers to it as a new species.
74. *Cryptolopha cinereocapilla* (Vieill.).—Pegu; Arakan Hills.
75. *Eumyias melanops* (Vigors).—Bassein.
76. *Erythrosterina leucura* (Gould).—Bassein. This does not appear to extend to the west of Bengal, and is the Indo-Chinese species. *E. parva* (Bechstein), the Indo-African and European form, appears to be the only one met with in India generally west of the Bengal Presidency.
77. *Cyornis rubeculoides* (Vigors).—Ava. I also obtained specimens in Lower Pegu, near Bassein.
78. *Tephrodornis pondiceriana* (Gmel.).—Thayet Myo.
79. *Lanius cristatus*, L.—Bassein.
80. *Lanius hypoleucus*, Blyth.—Thayet Myo and Ava, in the cold season only.
81. *Dendrocitta rufa* (Scop.).—Common throughout the Irawadi valley, in Pegu.
82. *Crypsirhina cucullata*, Jerd., Ibis, 1862, p. 20.—Thayet Myo, and the dry country above the British frontier; not seen in Lower Pegu.

83. *Crypsirhina varians* (Lath.).—Prome, Bassein.

84. *Urocissa magnirostris*, Blyth.—Thayet Myo. About August these birds were in small flocks composed of families and their nearly full-grown young. I saw a blue Magpie, probably of this species, close to Ava.

85. *Cissa sinensis* (Bodd.).—Near Prome.

86. *Gracula intermedia*, A. Hay.—Forest jungle, Bassein district.

87. *Temenuchus burmannicus* (Jerd. Ibis, 1862, p. 21).—Thayet Myo and Ava; more common above the British frontier than below it.

88. *Sturnopastor superciliaris*, Blyth.—Thayet Myo.

89. *Munia rubronigra* (Hodgson).—Thayet Myo.

90. *Ploceus bengalensis*, Blyth.—Thayet Myo, Ava.

91. *Ploceus manyar* (Horsf.).—Thayet Myo, in high elephant-grass on an island in the Irawadi, breeding in July and August.

92. *Ploceus baya*, Blyth.—Bassein.

93. *Passer flaveolus*, Blyth.—Thayet Myo; abundant in the bushes around the station. Common also further up the Irawadi.

94. *Euspiza aureola* (Pall.).—Ava.

95. *Euspiza rutila* (Pall.).—Arakan hills, near Bassein, Pegu. Dr. Jerdon (B. Ind. ii. p. 380) by mistake says that I obtained this bird in Upper Burma.

96. *Corydalla richardi* (Vieill.).—Bassein.

97. *Corydalla rufula* (Vieill.).—Thayet Myo; Bassein.

98. *Anthus agilis*, Sykes.—Thayet Myo, Bassein.

99. *Mirafra affinis*, Jerd.—Thayet Myo; common.

100. *Carpophaga sylvatica*, Tickell.—Arakan Hills, Prome, Bassein; common.

101. *Treron phœnicoptera* (Lath.).—Ava.

102. *Treron viridifrons*, Blyth.—Bassein: Thayet Myo?

103. *Treron phayrii* (Blyth).—Irawadi delta, near Bassein. This species and its allies of the group *Osmotreron* are wanting in the drier parts of India and Burma.

104. *Turtur tigrinus* (Temm.).—Thayet Myo.

105. *Francolinns phayrii*, Blyth.—Ava? Thayet Myo; Prome; not observed in Lower Pegu.

106. *Coturnix communis*, Bonn.—Pegu.
 107. *Turnix maculosa*, Temm. ; *T. blanfordi*, Blyth, J. A.S.B. 1863, p. 80.—Thayet Myo.
 108. *Turnix ocellata* (Scop.).—Puppa Hill, near Pagan.
 109. *Charadrius longipes*, Temm.—Bassein district.
 110. *Chaetusia cinerea* (Blyth).—Bassein.
 111. *Hoplopterus ventralis*, Cuv.—Banks of rivers ; Pegu and Ava.
 112. *Sarciophorus bilobus* (Gmel.).—Thayet Myo.
 113. *Edicnemus crepitans*, Temm.—Yenan-khyoung. I found a considerable flock in September. This is probably the most eastern locality known for the bird, and is an additional instance of the occurrence of western species in Upper Burma.

XXXVI.—*On Additional Collections of Birds from the Fantee Country.* By R. B. SHARPE, F.L.S., Libr. Z.S., &c.

(Plate XIV.)

SINCE the appearance of my last paper on the Ornithology of Fantee (*suprà*, pp. 52–59), I have been so fortunate as to receive for description no less than five collections from this locality ; and it will readily be believed that an examination of so large a series of birds has led to the discovery of many new and interesting facts.

The first collection was received from Mr. Higgins, whose endeavours to procure me specimens from Western Africa I have the greatest pleasure in acknowledging. No novelties were contained in it ; but a few birds in interesting stages of plumage were received.

The second collection was placed at my service by Professor Schlegel, who, with the utmost kindness, recently showed me the treasures of the great Museum at Leyden, and, perceiving the interest which I felt in West-African birds, most liberally allowed me to bring to London, for description, a small remnant of one of the collections sent from the Gold Coast, by the Dutch Governor Nagtglas. As nearly all the species it contained proved to be new, the value of Professor Schlegel's act cannot be too highly appreciated.